

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed June 20, 2006, claims 1-3, 5 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akiba (U.S. Patent No. 6,111,838) in view of Liou et al. (Re. 36,511); claim 4 was "objected to"; and claims 6-12 and 14 have been allowed. The foregoing rejections and objections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 4. Therefore, claims 2-3, 5 and 13 depending from claim 1 should also be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3 and 5-14 are currently pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "a slim optical disc drive in a portable computer, comprising: a main body comprising an upper frame and a lower frame; a tray installed in the main body to be loaded and/or unloaded and comprising a spindle motor to rotate an optical disc and an optical pickup to record information on and/or reproduce information from the optical disc; a front panel combined with a front side of the tray; **at least one protrusion extending from a front end of the upper frame toward the front panel; and an insertion portion formed on the front panel, wherein the at least one protrusion is inserted into the insertion portion**, and the front end of the upper frame is supported by the front panel so that the upper frame is prevented from being distorted downwardly by a load".

As admitted by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action, none of the foregoing references disclose or teach the features recited in amended claim 1.

Instead, Akiba merely discusses a disk ejection mechanism with a slidable eject switch. The disk ejection mechanism includes a tray which is movable between an inserted position and a disk-change position in both an insert direction and an eject direction whereby a slidably-arranged eject switch, associated with the tray locking member unlocks the tray from the tray locking member when the eject switch is moved in a direction perpendicular to both the insert direction and the eject direction (see Abstract).

Further, Liou et al. merely discusses an ejector apparatus for a tray device including a support and an ejector (see Abstract, and FIG. 2, for example).

Thus, withdrawal of the rejections and objections is respectfully requested.

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There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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